



# BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION  
& HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
(518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

UNIQUE SITE NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
QUAD \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIES \_\_\_\_\_  
NEG. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR NAME: Cynthia Howk DATE: Dec., 1994  
138 S. Fitzhugh St.  
YOUR ADDRESS: Rochester, NY 14608 TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
ORGANIZATION (if any): The Landmark Society of Western New York, Inc.

## IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME(S): Taliento House  
2. COUNTY: Monroe TOWN/CITY: Greece VILLAGE: ---  
3. STREET LOCATION: 395 Edgemere Drive  
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public ☐ b. private ☒  
5. PRESENT OWNER: Josephine Taliento ADDRESS: (same) Rochester, NY 14612  
6. USE: Original: residence Present: residence  
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes ☒ No ☐  
Interior accessible: Explain private residence

## DESCRIPTION

8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard ☐ b. stone ☐ c. brick ☐ d. board and batten ☐  
e. cobblestone ☐ f. shingles ☐ g. stucco ☒ other: (over concrete  
Roof = not visible. Foundation = concrete block)  
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: a. wood frame with interlocking joints ☐ block  
b. wood frame with light members ☐  
(if known) c. masonry load bearing walls ☒  
d. metal (explain) \_\_\_\_\_  
e. other \_\_\_\_\_  
10. CONDITION: a. excellent ☐ b. good ☒ c. fair ☐ d. deteriorated ☐  
11. INTEGRITY: a. original site ☒ b. moved ☐ if so, when? \_\_\_\_\_  
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): \_\_\_\_\_  
(see continuation sheet)

12. PHOTO:

13. MAP:

"This is part of a nice collection of houses. The problem with this home is the metal awnings on all of the windows. I don't think they were original. It doesn't seem that you'd want to put awnings all over a rather austere modern house. I think that this is in the 'green plus' category. Again, it's not 'beautiful,' but it's an interesting experiment." P.Malo

COLOR CODE

Green plus





14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known ☒ b. zoning ☐ c. roads ☐  
d. developers ☐ e. deterioration ☐  
f. other: \_\_\_\_\_

15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:

- a. barn ☐ b. carriage house ☐ c. garage ☐  
d. privy ☐ e. shed ☐ f. greenhouse ☐  
g. shop ☐ h. gardens ☐  
i. landscape features: deciduous trees, deciduous & coniferous shrubs  
j. other: \_\_\_\_\_

16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):

- a. open land ☐ b. woodland ☐  
c. scattered buildings ☐  
d. densely built-up ☒ e. commercial ☐  
f. industrial ☐ g. residential ☒  
h. other: \_\_\_\_\_

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:  
(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

(see continuation sheet)

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

(see continuation sheet)

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: c. 1949

ARCHITECT: not determined

BUILDER: not determined

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

(see continuation sheet)

21. SOURCES: (see continuation sheet)

22. THEME: residential



11c.

The red-and-white metal windows awnings may be a later addition to the house.

Otherwise, this house appears unaltered from its original construction.

17. This house is located on the south side of Edgemere Drive in the northeast quadrant of the town. It is just east of Dewey Avenue and sits on the slope of Rigney Bluff, the highest point of land along Edgemere Drive. Lake Ontario is visible to the north. A driveway is located to the west of the house; there are no outbuildings. A spacious lawn slopes away and to the east of the house. The adjacent homes along Edgemere Drive range from the early 20th-century to the 1980s. The adjacent neighborhood to the south has mostly post-World War II residential architecture.

18. The main two-story block of this residence features a flat roof with ledge coping and multi-paned, steel casement windows with brick sills. The one-story front section has the same detailing - steel windows, flat roof - but also includes a Chicago-style window (center glass panel flanked by two double-hung windows). The entire exterior is finished in stucco applied over concrete block. A chimney is located on the southwest corner of the front section; part of its stucco veneer has fallen away to reveal the concrete block underneath. The front entrance includes brick steps and a paneled wood door with two upper glass lights; a secondary doorway is located at the southeast corner of the house.

20. Built c. 1949, this house is architecturally significant as a representative example of the International style of domestic architecture in the town of Greece. Essentially unaltered from its original design, the house retains its form, craftsmanship, and materials.

The International style is an avant-garde and primarily architect-designed style which is relatively rare. Most landmark examples date from the 1930s and occur principally in fashionable suburbs in the northeastern states and in California. Following World War II, certain elements of the style became softened into a more widespread vernacular

Town of Greece Historic Sites Survey  
Monroe County, New York  
395 Edgemere Drive  
page 4

20. continued

the Contemporary style. During the 1970s a group of New York City architects began a revival of interest in the International style house that has continued to the present day.

In the decades separating World Wars I and II, Americans tended to prefer period houses that reflected past traditions, while European architects emphasized radically new designs that came to be known as International style architecture. Le Corbusier in France, Oud and Rietveld in Holland, Walter Gropius and Mies van der Rohe in Germany were all working without historic precedent, trying to exploit the materials and technology of the day.

During the 1930s, these ideas were introduced into the United States by several distinguished practitioners who emigrated to escape the developing chaos in Europe. For residential architecture, they stressed the idea of the house as a "machine for living." All superfluous ornament could be stripped away, the latest machinery installed in kitchens and bathrooms, and true efficiency brought to the home. Functionalism was of prime importance. The traditional elements of the house that were merely decorative were to be discarded. This idea was greatly to influence American domestic building in the following decades.

The house at #395 Edgemere Drive embodies these ideas of functionalism and modern technology. It has the basic "block" shape, flat roof, and smooth stucco wall surfaces of International style houses. Modern building materials - concrete block, steel, glass - are used in its construction. Fenestration is irregular and features multi-paned steel casement windows set flush with the outer walls. Several of the windows "wrap-around" the corners of the building. Decorative details are minimal; the brick window sills are the most notable "decoration." The front door is not accentuated (no porch, entrance hood, or decorative windows/woodwork).

This area of Edgemere Drive is shown as mostly undeveloped on the 1924 county map, where the name "Shoremont V 57-35" is listed. Only one house (no address given) is shown here along the south side of Edgemere Drive (probably the house at #417). To the north, the Rochester, Charlotte and Manitou Railroad (also known as the Manitou Trolley) track is shown running along the shoreline at the base of Rigney Bluff.

Town of Greece Historic Sites Survey  
Monroe County, New York  
395 Edgemere Drive  
Page 5

20. continued

This house is first listed in the 1949 suburban directory as "#395 Edgemere Dr. - vacant." In the 1950 directory, Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Taliento are shown at this address; he is listed as a tailor. According to their relative, Mrs. P.C. Taliento, both Talientos did tailoring work at Bond Clothing Company. By 1958, Mrs. Josephine Taliento, widow of Anthony, is shown here; she continues to own the property today.

The house is located in the area of Edgemere Drive known as "Rigney Bluff." Just east of Buck Pond, this high point of land also overlooks Lake Ontario to the north. When the area was subdivided for mid-20th century residential development, the Rigney name was continued when "Rigney Avenue" was laid out between Edgemere Drive and Moxon Lane. The Manitou Beach Railroad, shown on the early 20th-century maps, ceased to run in 1925 and the tracks were eventually removed.

21. See final report for bibliography; interview with Mrs. P.C. Taliento, 12/1994.

